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Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines W. H. Jawellf, Jr. President contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment.



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I HEARD WHAT YUH
JUST SAID, HOPALONG,
BUT I DON'T AGREE WITH
YUH! WHEN THEY LEFT HERE
THEY WERE HEADING SOUTH
FER THE BORDER!

THEY MIGHT HAVE SEEN
TAKING A ROUNDABOUT
WAY BACK SO AS TO
THROW US OFF
THE TRACK!



LOOK HYAR, SHERIFF!
I SAW THOSE CROOKS
RIDE OFF IN THAT THAR
DIRECTION—AND AS A
TAX-PAYING CITIZEN
I INSIST YUH FORGET
YOUR THEORIES AND
GO AFTER THEM!

I HATE TO MANE TO DOLLOW
WHINCH THROUGH BY
MYSELF, BUT AS A CHITEN
YOU'NE GOT YOUR RIGHTS,
SO I'LL SENO THE POSSE
WHERE YOU WANT THEM
TO GO, WHILE I HEAD BACK
FOR THE GROST TOWN
BY MYSELF!

HOPALONG RIDES THE PERILOUS TRAILS OF BUZZARD CLIFFS, A SHORT CUT TO THUNDER CANYON, WHICH FEW MEN DARE TO UNDERTAKE!



































































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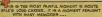












YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU, PARDNER ? WE CAN GET ALONS ... WITHOUT EACH OTHER, SOMEHOW! IT'S THE ONLY WAY! I CAN SAVE FRED ANDERSON'S LIFE!









I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'LL SAY WHEN HE FINDS OUT HOW YOU REALLY RAISED THE MONEY! HOW CAN WE EVER REPAY YOU, MONTE?

MATTER, MARY, MR. FROME PROMISED ME THAT PARPNER WOULD GET THE BEST OF CARE! THAT'S WHAT MATTERS MOST!





















1. TRUE . 2. TRUE . 3. FALSE . HE MEANS IT'S LIVELY . 4 . TRUE . 5 . TRUE .



YOU HAD A NEAT SCHEME, FROME! YOUR A HORSE TRADNS BUSINESS COVERED UP THE RUSTLING SANG! YOU CHANGED BRANDS AND SHIPPED OUT STOLEN HORSES WITHOUT ANY-BODY SUSPECTING WHERE YOU GOT THEM! BUT YOU GUTSMARTED YOURSELF WHEN YOU SOURT PARDNER!



WARNED YOU PARONER IS A SMART HORSE!
WHEN HE SAW RINTY BEING SHIPPED OUT, PARONER RIGURED OUT WHAT HAPPENED! RECKON YOUR DOWN-FALL WAS CAUSED BY PLAIN OLD ORDINARY....
HORSE SENSE!



BATER, WHEN THE SHERIFF ARRIVES TO TAKE OVER ---

WE GOT BACK OUR RUSTLED STOCK, MONTE! FRED AND I CAN'T EVER THANK YOU ENOUGH! WHY DON'T YOU STAY WITH US AWHUE?

THAMKS KINDLY, MARY! BUT PARDIER AND I HAVE ITCHING FEET! REKON WE'LL HIT THE TRAIL AGAIN TOGETHER!



Y. ? ! : : QUIZ ?

CORRECT- GOOP, CORRECT- FAIR, CORRECT- POOR

1 THE MYTHOLOGICAL FIGURE, PROMETHEUS, BROUGHT FIRE TO MAN

PRUE BALSE

2 SOUISIANNA ONCE BELONGED TO FRANCE.

TRUE... BALSE...

"THE PARTY'S A SNAKE"
HE MEANS IT'S ROTTEN.

4 SINCE THE FIRST U.S.
POSTAGE STAMP WAS
PRINTED THERE HAVE
BEEN 700 DIFFERENT
TYPES ISSUED

TRUE ... FALSE ...

5 FISH CAN HEAR .

ANSWERS:

TRUE STRUE 3 FALSE HE MEANS IT IN THE LINE IN THE MEANS



COLD HEARTED COYOTE! HUH? WHAT'S THET NOISE? OH, IT'S JEST A COUPLE OF KIDS PLAYING!











WESTERN HERO -





















DON'T GO! THAR ARE

































































THE POACHERS

A RED ROAN Adventure

by Dick Kraus



ED ROAN stood high on the mountainside, a crisp breeze whipping through his scarlet mane and stail. The great stallion's eyes were intent on a trail that wound through the underbrush far below. There he saw three men, carrying packs and rifles on their backs, clambering up the steep slope. Red Roan was troubled, for he knew these men did not belong there.

Three weeks before, the crimson-coated brone had led his herd into this broad stretch of the San Marcos range. He knew that this was a government game preserve, a place where hunting was forbidden, where deer and bear, and even the great big-horn sheep, might live in peace. Then what were these three men doing here with their guns, Red Roan wondered.

As the three husky, heavily-armed men hiked up the trail, they laughed and joked among themselves

"While that forest ranger's wasting his time down around Los Puntos," one of them scoffed, "we'll pick up all the game we want in jig time. It sure was a good idea, sending him that note telling about poachers . . . thirty miles from here!"

The other men laughed and rubbed unshaven cheeks.

"Mebbe so, Crock," one of them agreed. "But how about when we've shot a passel of deer? How de we get the venison down out of the hills afore it spoils? Be mighty heavy toting!" The first man grinned again. "Leave it to

Crock Riley," he said. "This country's full of wild horses. We'll sneak up on 'em and rope a couple. Use 'em for pack horses going down ... and then sell 'em! You'll see."

Breathing heavily, the three men toiled up the slope. Soon they would be deep in the heavily-wooded forests of the San Marcos slope where unsuspecting deer grazed. And, a few hundred yards beyond, were the beginnings of the steep cliffs and jagged crags where the bighorn sheep lived.

It would be rick hunting, and they grunted in anticipation.

Watching them, Red Roan sensed that he would have to act swiftly to keep his herd of mares and colts safe. Rejoining the grazing herd, he whinnied a swift order. The wild

horses lifted their heads, understood his command, and followed him at a rapid trot, as he led them away from the climbing poschers. When they were five miles away, Red Roan decided that they were out of danger and he let them stop again to graze.

Through that day and the next, the crimson stallion heard the grim report of distant rifles. He knew that the poachers were slaying game ruthlessly, and he knew that he must keep the herd away from them.

But what he did not know was that, while hunting on the crags, one of the men had spied his herd and made a note on its position.

The next morning, as Red Roan led the herd toward a water spring that bubbled from the side of the mountain, he did not notice three figures that crouched behind a huge boulder a few yards from the spring. On came the thirsy herd, with the graceful stallion leading them. At the last moment, Red Roan's sensitive noastils quivered.

Man-smell!

EARING back in alarm, Red Roan whinnied a desperate warning. At once the herd scattered, darting in every direction. But the poachers sprang from behind the boulder, long lariats snaking through the air.

"Get 'em, boys! Don't let 'em get away!"

In a moment, two of the mares had been

roped!

Laughing, the poachers wound their lassos around slender trees that served as snubbing posts. Each holding a club, they pulled the frightened mares in, roughly quieted them, and fitted halters over their heads. "They're skittish and mean," Crock Riley

grunted. "But keep a stick handy and they won't give us any trouble. They'll pack the deer meat down out of the hills—and they'll fetch us a few dollars afterward. Boys, we're in luck!"

As the poachers led the captured mares in the

direction of their deer meat cache, Red Roan followed at a distance.

He had left the rest of the herd, assembled

He had left the rest of the herd, assemble once again, to graze.

But he had to see what would happen to the captured mares. For, the great stallion told himself, it was his fault they had been roped, his

the tent.

fault that the herd had moved into the trap. Knowing that poachers were shooting in the hills, he should have taken his mares and colts many miles away, completely out of danger!

So he followed, a good distance behind, but his dark eyes and keen ears were alert to any chance of escape!

BED ROAN was not the only worried one in the San Marcos hills that day.

For, clambering up the preserve trail was a slim, sun-tanned youth in the green uniform of a forest ranger. Days before, Tom Bayles had received an anonymous note, telling him about a crew of poachers operating far to the south at Los Puntos, Somehow, he had distrusted the warning.

"Why wasn't the note signed, if someone wrote it who really wanted to stop poaching?" the ranger had asked himself. "Maybe it's a wrong steer, someone trying to send me to the

wrong spot in the hills!" Acting on a hunch, ranger Bayles had decided to take a look in the preserve, not at Los Puntos,

but to the north, where game was thicker. "But so far," he muttered to himself, "I haven't seen a sign of hunters. Maybe I've made a mistake and let a gang of poachers get away."

Pausing on a high, outcropping rock, the ranger fitted field glasses to his eyes. Slowly, carefully, he swung the glasses over the mountain range, searching every corner, every cranny. He saw nothing. Again, even more painstakingly, he tried. Then-

"Why, that must be Red Roan's wild horse herd down there," he mused. "But where's the red stallion himself? It isn't like him to leave the herd."

Putting the glasses away, Tom Bayles began to clamber over the steeply angled slope. Then he stopped short. For there, less than three hundred yards from him, was Red Roan, moving slowly through the underbrush. Cautiously, the great stallion was staying near cover as much as possible and he was obviously watching something, or someone, ahead of him. Something-or someone-important enough to make him leave his herd!

Tom Bayles slapped his thigh hard.

"I wonder!" he said. Then he loosened his Colt in its leather holster, "It's just worth investigating." He began to move downhill.

AN HOUR LATER, Crock Riley and the other two poachers reached their mountain camp. Several deer carcasses and one magnificent big-horn head were tied to branches around "Nice going!" Crock grinned. He rubbed his

hands together. "Let's tie the venison onto the pack horses and get out of the preserve. No sense tempting fate too long!"

"You've tempted it too long already!" came a cold, hard voice, In amazement, the poachers whirled. There,

standing by a hemlock tree, was Tom Bayles, the forest ranger. "So you found us," husked Crock Riley.

"Well, too bad for you, because you're not sending us to jail!"

His hand whipped toward his gun belt. But the ranger's draw was even swifter. His slender hand blurred into action, there was the brief glint of a gray gun barrel coming up, and a single shot echoed over the mountainside.

Gasping in pain, Riley clutched his arm. His gun dropped to the ground.

"That's better," said Tom Bayles quietly. "You two take your guns by the barrels and pitch them over here. Careful, unless you want

As the unnerved poachers obeyed, the ranger went on, his voice low and expressionless, "Some folks can't leave well enough alone. Here you shot a batch of deer and a prize big-horn sheep. You probably would have gotten away with that. But then you made a mistake. You captured a couple of marcs from Red Roan's herd! So he followed you. And I came across

him . . . and followed him." One of the men began a bitter exclamation, then tightened his lips and was silent.

"All right, now!" said the ranger briskly. "Take the halters off those two mares and let them go! Time they were back with the herd!"

"B-but-" one of the poschers stammered, "how about the venison? You're not leaving it here to rot, are you? How'll we get it down without them?"

TOM BAYLES smiled even more broadly. "No, I'm not leaving it here to rot. I'll need it for evidence against you three!" He pointed with his thumb to the deer carcasses. "You're carrying them down to town on your back! Big-horn head and all! I reckon that'll cure you of poaching . . . for all time!"

THE END

RED ROAN'S adventures are featured in every issue of WESTERN HERO!



THESE HYAR LEAVES OUTTA HERE BEFORE MORNING, BUT, SHERIFF, I'M THIS SOUNDS INTERESTING WORN OUT FROM LITTLE ARROW! LET'S TAKE I'M AGONNA LOCK YOH UP! THEY'RE



WELL, YUH BETTER! THESE LEAVES HAVE GOT THE BE OUT OF HERE OK, SHEE O.K., SHERIFF!







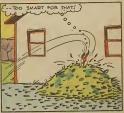




















































NEAR YORES, IT'LL GIVE YUH A CHANCE TO GIT ACQUAINTED WITH YORE NEW NEIGHBORS!

































UT TOM FINDS MORE THAN IDENTIFICATION...

I FOUND A MAP ON EACH ONE OF THESE MAPS UNFORTUNATES AND NOT ONE OF THESE MAPS OF THE ONE OF THESE MAPS OF THE ONE OF THE O

WOLLD WANT TO DO SUCH A HORRIBLE THING, AND WHY?





HILE TOM MAKES HIS HARD ASCENT, SMILEY CONTINUES HIS VILLAINOUS WORK!

ONCE THAT HOMBRE DOWN IN THE GUICH SEES THAT WRECKAGE, I RECKON HE'LL GIT WISE THAT SOMETHING PHONY IS GOINS ON, SO I GOT TO MAKE SHORE HE NEVER GITS OUTTI THE GUICH ALIVE! BUT AFOR!

SO I GOT TO MAKE SHORE HE MEYER GITS GUILTA THE GUILCH MEYER GITS GUILCH MEYER GITS GUILCH GUT THIS CRITTER COUT OF THE GUT TH









LEGS!





EASSURED BY FLIP THAT HE'S PHYSICALLY FIT TO MAKE THE RETURN TRIP BACK TO THE TM BAR RANGH, TOM STARTS FOR GINDER GITY !

1°M ALL RIGHT, FLIP! TAKE GARE OF YOURSELF! I'VE GOT TO GO TO CINDER CITY, FOR I'M CERTAIN BE GAREFUL, TOM! YORE HANDS ARE BADLY TORN ! HE ANSWER TO THIS MYSTER





































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